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SUPERMAN
STARRING IN
ACTION COMICS
REVENGE AT LAST! FOR TURNING ME INTO NEUTRON, THE LIVING BOMB--
--I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU SUPERMAN, THE DEAD HERO!
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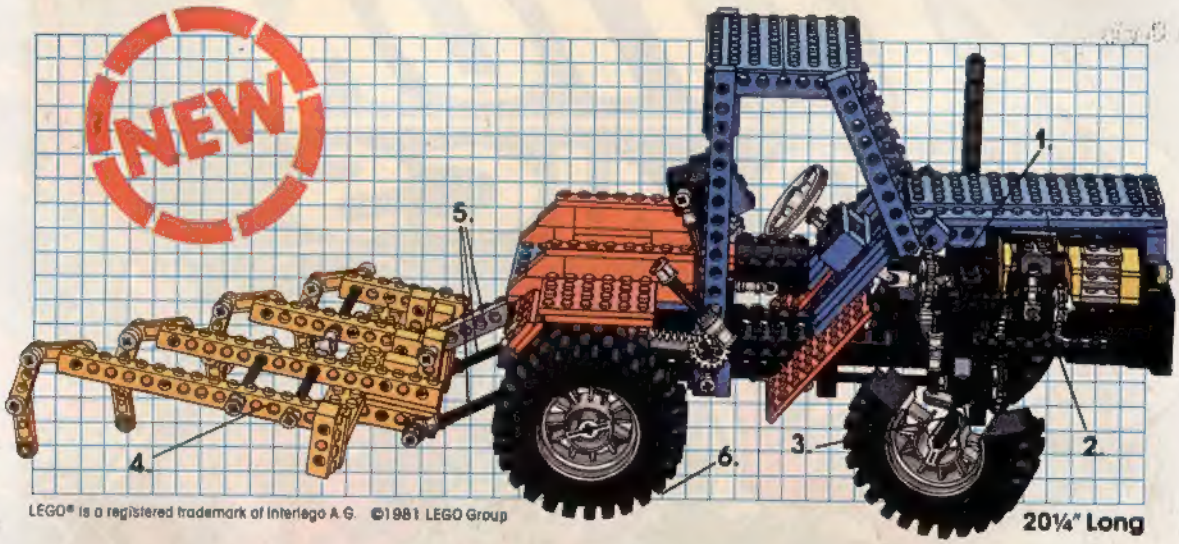

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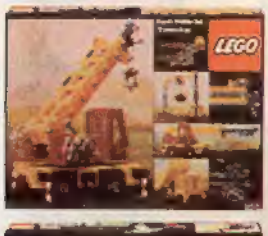
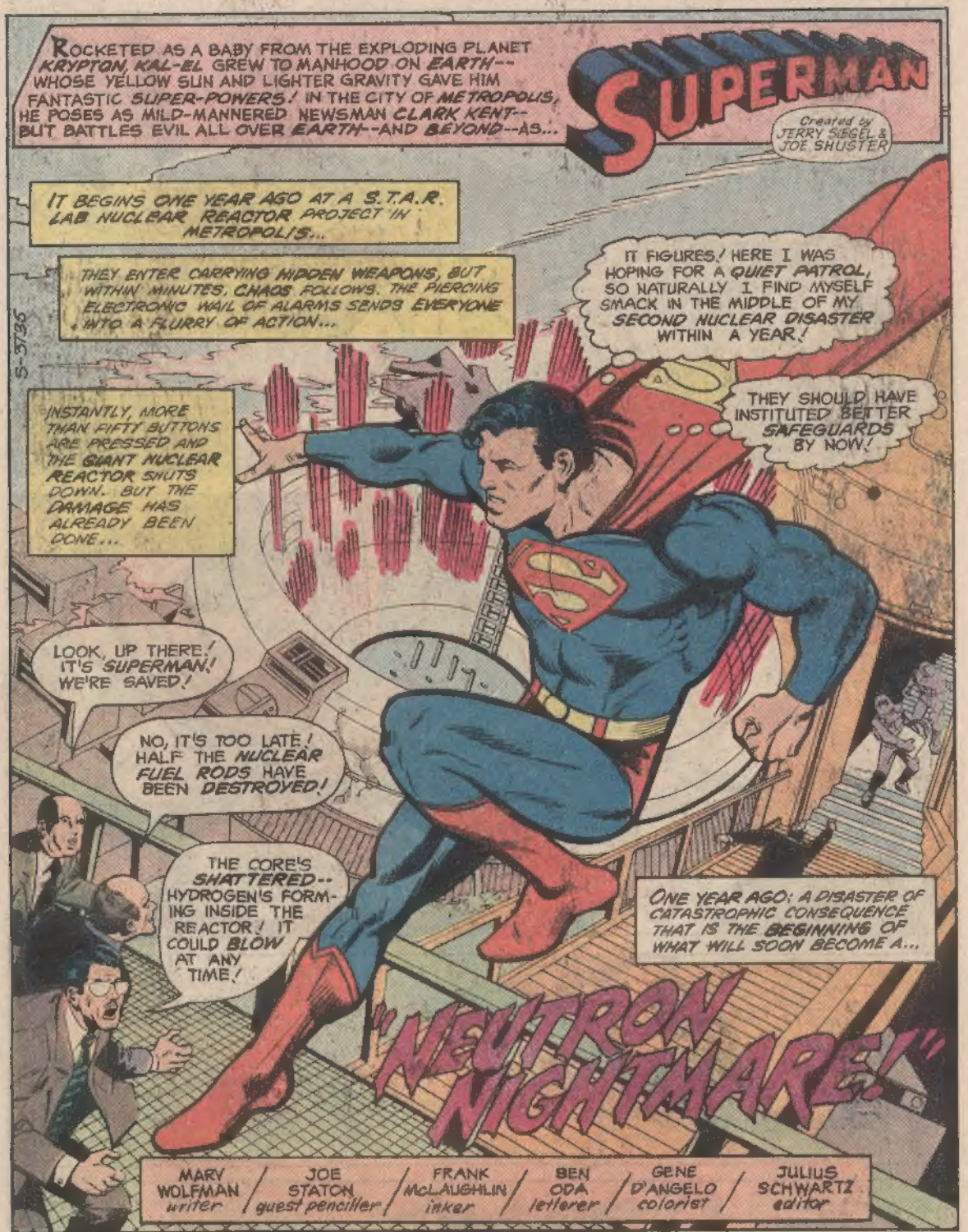


DEFINITELY NOT KID'S STUFF.


ROCKETED AS A BABY FROM THE EXPLODING PLANET KRYPTON, KAL-EL GREW TO MANHOOD ON EARTH--WHOSE YELLOW SUN AND LIGHTER GRAVITY GAVE HIM FANTASTIC SUPER-POWERS! IN THE CITY OF METROPOLIS, HE POSES AS MILD-MANNERED NEWSMAN CLARK KENT--BUT BATTLES EVIL ALL OVER EARTH--AND BEYOND--AS...
SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
IT BEGINS ONE YEAR AGO AT A S.T.A.R. LAB NUCLEAR REACTOR PROJECT IN METROPOLIS...
THEY ENTER CARRYING HIDDEN WEAPONS, BUT WITHIN MINUTES, CHAOS FOLLOWS. THE PIERCING ELECTRONIC WAIL OF ALARMS SENDS EVERYONE INTO A FLURRY OF ACTION...
S-3735
IT FIGURES! HERE I WAS HOPING FOR A QUIET PATROL, SO NATURALLY I FIND MYSELF SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF MY SECOND NUCLEAR DISASTER WITHIN A YEAR!
THEY SHOULD HAVE INSTITUTED BETTER SAFEGUARDS BY NOW!
INSTANTLY, MORE THAN FIFTY BUTTONS ARE PRESSED AND THE GIANT NUCLEAR REACTOR SHUTS DOWN. BUT THE DAMAGE HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE...
LOOK, UP THERE! IT'S SUPERMAN! WE'RE SAVED!
NO, IT'S TOO LATE! HALF THE NUCLEAR FUEL RODS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED!
THE CORE'S SHATTERED--HYDROGEN'S FORMING INSIDE THE REACTOR! IT COULD BLOW AT ANY TIME!
ONE YEAR AGO: A DISASTER OF CATASTROPHIC CONSEQUENCE THAT IS THE BEGINNING OF WHAT WILL SOON BECOME A...
"NEUTRON NIGHTMARE!"
MARY WOLFMAN writer / JOE STATON guest penciller / FRANK McLAUGHLIN inker / BEN ODA letterer / GENE D'ANGELO colorist / JULIUS SCHWARTZ editor

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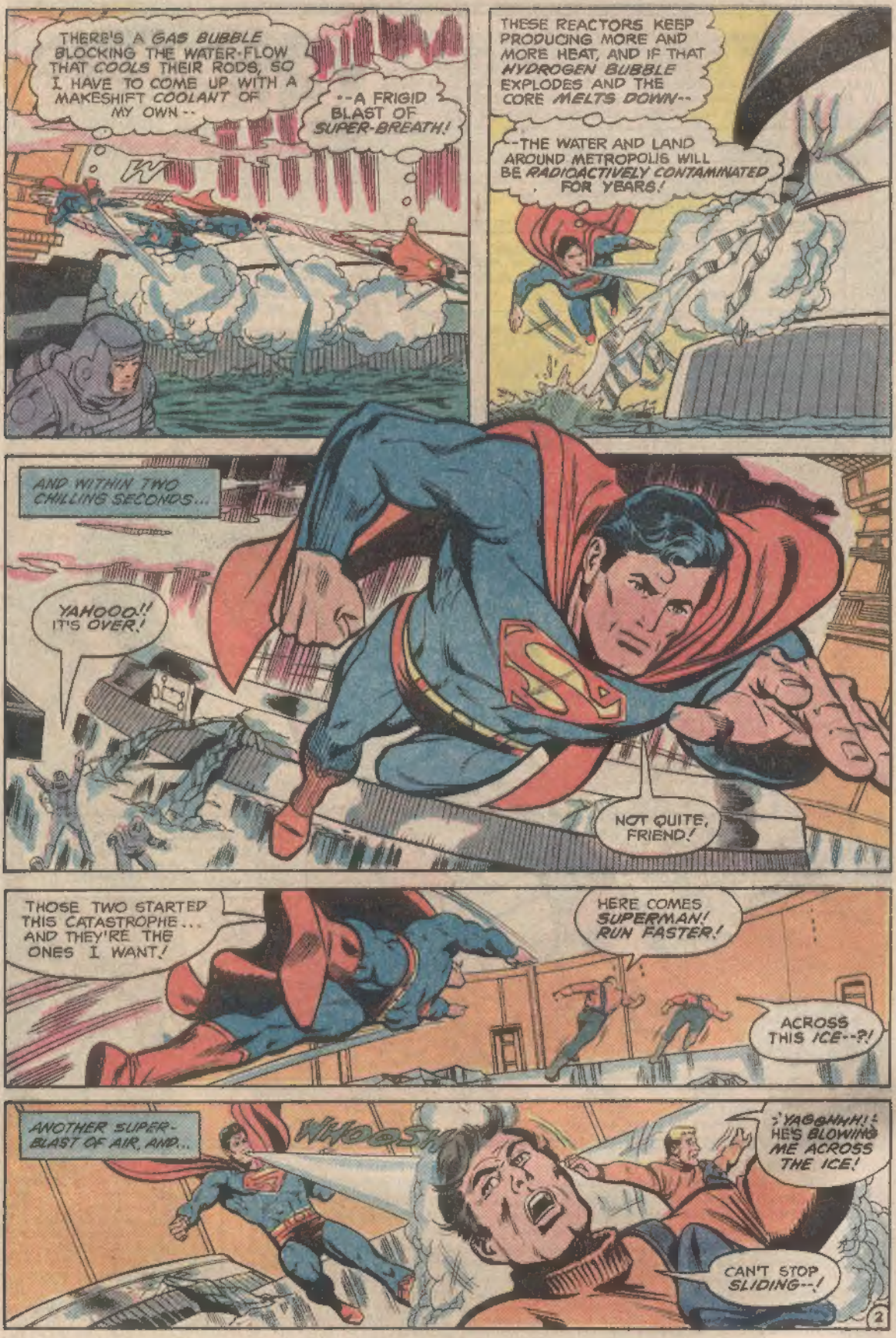
THERE'S A GAS BUBBLE BLOCKING THE WATER-FLOW THAT COOLS THEIR RODS, SO I HAVE TO COME UP WITH A MAKESHIFT COOLANT OF MY OWN--
--A FRIGID BLAST OF SUPER-BREATH!
THESE REACTORS KEEP PRODUCING MORE AND MORE HEAT, AND IF THAT HYDROGEN BUBBLE EXPLODES AND THE CORE MELTS DOWN--
--THE WATER AND LAND AROUND METROPOLIS WILL BE RADIOACTIVELY CONTAMINATED FOR YEARS!
AND WITHIN TWO CHILLING SECONDS...
YAHOOO!! IT'S OVER!
NOT QUITE, FRIEND!
THOSE TWO STARTED THIS CATASTROPHE... AND THEY'RE THE ONES I WANT!
HERE COMES SUPERMAN! RUN FASTER!
ACROSS THIS ICE--?!
ANOTHER SUPER-BLAST OF AIR, AND...
WHOOSH
YAGGHHH! HE'S BLOWING ME ACROSS THE ICE!
CAN'T STOP SLIDING--!
2

EEEYOWW
I RECOGNIZE THEM-- TED AND TIM-- TWO OF THE T.N.T. TRIO THAT WORKS FOR LUTHOR!
FUMP!
THEN HE'S THE ONE WHO SENT THEM AFTER THE FUEL RODS! BUT WHY--?
AND WHEN THE ACTION ACE TRIES TO GET ANSWERS...
NO WAY, SUPERMAN! IF WE TALKED, LUTHOR WOULD HAVE US KILLED ...OR EVEN WORSE!
C'MON, TAKE US TO PRISON! THOSE SIRENS ...ALL THAT NOISE HERE...DRIVIN' ME CRAZY!
WHERE'S NAT--THE MIDDLE MEMBER OF YOUR TRIO?
WE CAME HERE BY OURSELVES THIS TIME-- JUST THE TWO OF US!
COULD BE... MY X-RAY VISION ISN'T PICKING UP ANYONE ELSE.
ALL RIGHT, FELLAS... NEXT STOP, METROPOLIS PRISON!
NO! I'M HERE! I'M STUCK!
SUPERMAN-- CAN'T YOU HEAR ME? CAN'T YOU SEE ME?
BLAST IT, SUPERMAN-- SAVE ME! THIS SHIELDING ...IT'S CRUSHING ME!
AGHHH! N-NO USE... EVEN HE CAN'T PICK UP MY SCREAMS OVER ALL THIS RACKET!

CALL IT AN INDOMITABLE WILL THAT REFUSES TO QUIT, OR EVEN A SUDDEN SURGE OF LIFE-GIVING ADRENALINE...
I'M NOT GONNA DIE!
THEY'RE NOT GONNA KILL NAT TRYON! NOT GONNA KILL...
INCREDIBLY, BEYOND ANY HOPE, BEYOND ANY CHANCE...

...NAT MOVES, SLOWLY, ALMOST IMPERCEPTIBLY...INCH BY PAINFUL INCH...
THEY DID THIS TO ME... SUPERMAN SHOULD HAVE SAVED ME!
TED AND TIM SHOULD'VE TOLD HIM I WAS HERE!

SOMEHOW, DESPITE ALL THE GUARDS AND ALL THE RUNNING FIGURES DARTING ABOUT THIS NUCLEAR PLANT, NAT TRYON STAGGERS TO SAFETY...
HIS BODY WRACKED AND TORN WITH PAIN, HE HOBBLES ACROSS METROPOLIS, TO A CERTAIN UNDERGROUND LABORATORY...
4

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

The magic in gum is Bubble Yum®.

There's magic in Bubble Yum's number one taste. The fantastic flavor lasts a long long time with a smooth, soft chew. Get some and see how fast you can make it disappear.
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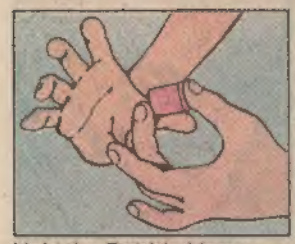
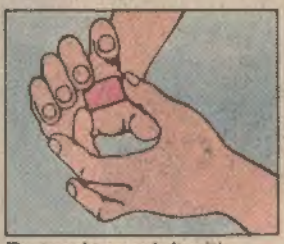
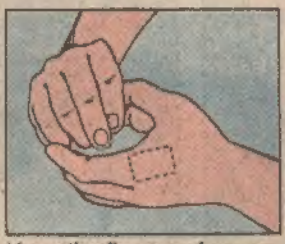
Try this magic trick with your next piece.



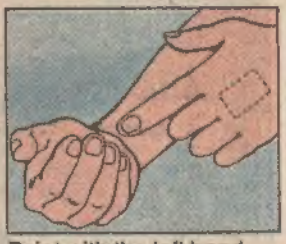
Hold the Bubble Yum between the thumb and middle finger of your left hand.



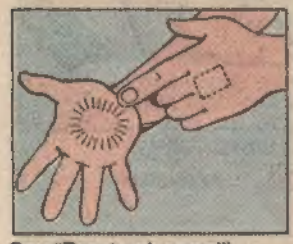
Pretend to grab it with your right hand while you really drop it into the palm of your left hand.



Keep the fingers of your right hand loose as if they had the gum.



Point with the left hand while you secretly hold the gum in your palm.



Say "Presto chango!" and open your right hand to show that the Bubble Yum has magically disappeared.

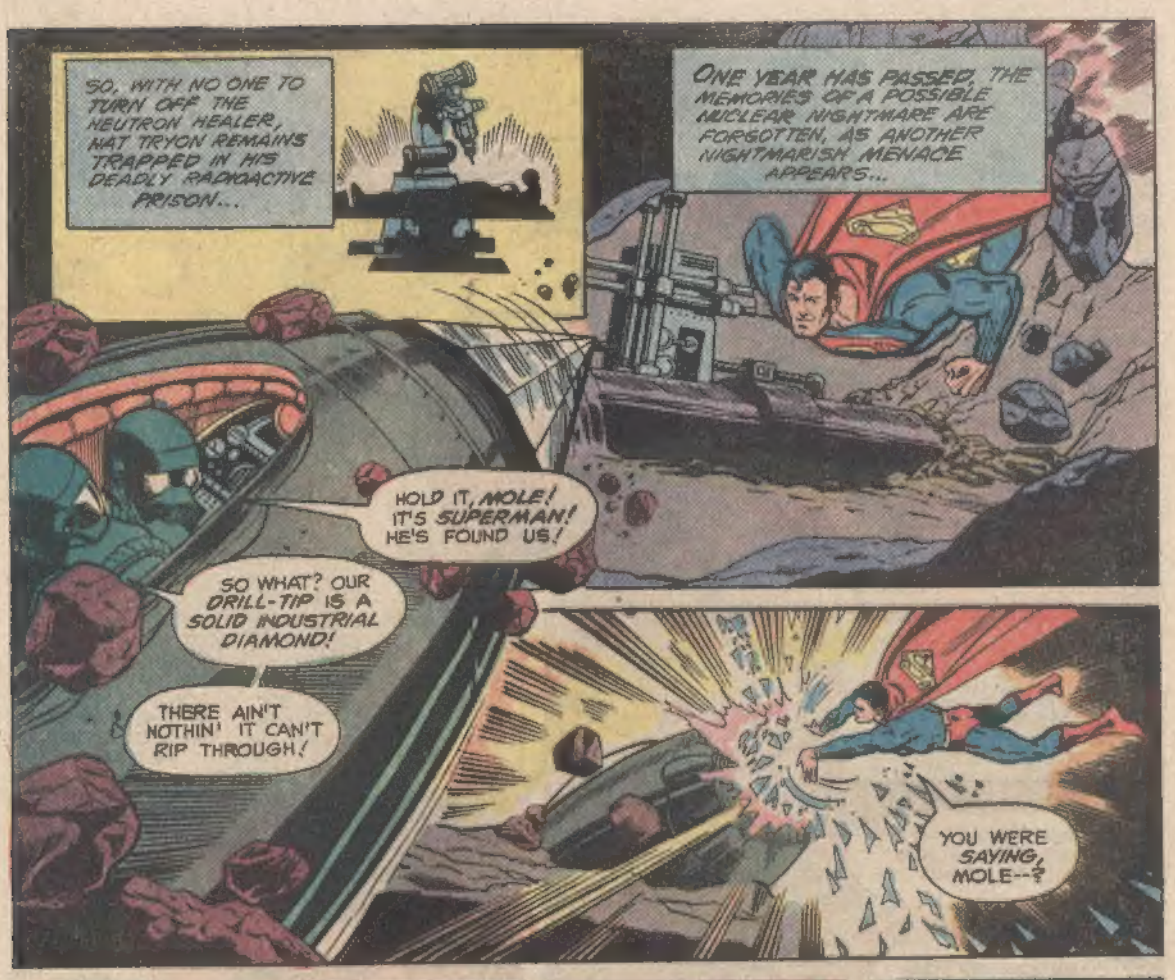
Then you can make the Bubble Yum disappear the easy way—and try the number one taste.

...WHERE A TRIPLE-THICK MOLYBDENUM DOOR MELTS THROUGH AT HIS SLIGHTEST TOUCH...
BUT NAT BARELY STUMBLES ACROSS THE THRESHOLD WHEN...
L...LUTHOR... S-SAVE MEEEEEE...

AND WHEN NAT TRYON AWAKENS, 72 HOURS LATER...
THE BAD NEWS IS THAT YOU HAVE SEVERE RADIATION POISONING, NAT.
THE GOOD NEWS-- IT CAN BE CURED, WITH MY SPECIAL NEUTRON-DISPLACER!

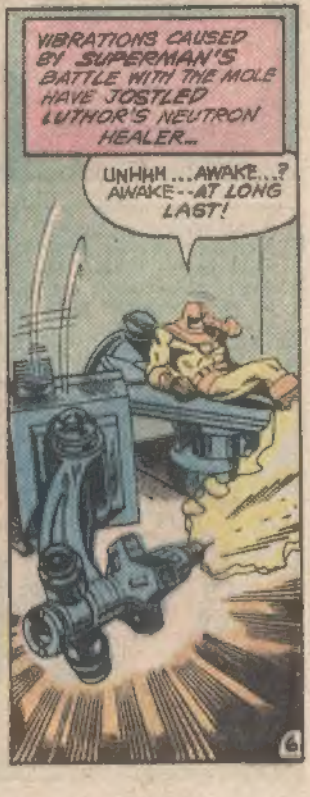
YOU'LL HAVE TO BE UNDER THE RAY FOR ONE FULL WEEK. THIS SPECIAL RADIATION SUIT I DESIGNED WILL PROTECT YOU FOR AT LEAST THAT LONG.

HOWEVER, BEFORE THE WEEK IS OUT, LUTHOR, INVOLVED WITH OTHER ACTIVITIES, IS CAPTURED BY HIS ARCH-ENEMY, SUPERMAN... BUT THAT'S ANOTHER STORY...


SO, WITH NO ONE TO TURN OFF THE NEUTRON HEALER, NAT TRYON REMAINS TRAPPED IN HIS DEADLY RADIOACTIVE PRISON...
ONE YEAR HAS PASSED! THE MEMORIES OF A POSSIBLE NUCLEAR NIGHTMARE ARE FORGOTTEN, AS ANOTHER NIGHTMARISH MENACE APPEARS...
HOLD IT, MOLE! IT'S SUPERMAN! HE'S FOUND US!
SO WHAT? OUR DRILL-TIP IS A SOLID INDUSTRIAL DIAMOND!
THERE AIN'T NOTHIN' IT CAN'T RIP THROUGH!
YOU WERE SAYING, MOLE--?

YOU'RE GOOD AT DIGGING, MOLE-- LET'S SEE HOW WELL YOU DO AT THE METROPOLIS PRISON ROCK-PILE!
ANOTHER CASE CLOSED? NOT QUITE! FOR IF THE KRYPTONIAN CRUSADER HAD X-RAY SCANNED THE AREA BELOW...

...HE MIGHT HAVE SPOTTED A LEAD-LINED WALL TO ONE SIDE OF THE RECENTLY VACATED TUNNEL...
...A WALL THAT BELONGS TO LUTHOR LAIR #16, WHERE A YEAR-LONG SLEEPER SUDDENLY FINDS HIS UNEXPECTED STASIS COME TO AN END...


VIBRATIONS CAUSED BY SUPERMAN'S BATTLE WITH THE MOLE HAVE JOSTLED LUTHOR'S NEUTRON HEALER...
UNHHH...AWAKE...? AWAKE--AT LONG LAST!
6

AWAKE... AND EVER MORE READY TO AVENGE... AND DESTROY!
TED... TIM... EVEN SUPERMAN-- THEY'LL ALL PAY FOR WHAT I'VE BECOME!
WHILE ONE YEAR OF FESTERING HATRED FINDS ITS RELEASE, AN ANNIVERSARY OF ANOTHER SORT FINDS ITSELF STALLED IN COMPLICATIONS...
NO! FORGET IT! ABSOLUTELY NOT! I WON'T PERMIT IT!
COME ON, MR. EDGE-- THINK OF THE PUBLICITY, AND WHAT IT COULD... UHH... MEAN TO YOU PERSONALLY!
THE DAILY PLANET GLOBE HAS BEEN OFF THIS BUILDING SINCE GALAXY TOOK OVER. BUT THE GLOBE IS A SYMBOL... OF OUR POWER... OF YOUR POWER!
THE PLANET'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY IS COMING UP, AND YOU HAVE THE CHANCE OF RETURNING THAT SYMBOL TO THE PEOPLE!
WGBS
READ MY LIPS, LANE-- FORGET IT! I WON'T HAVE FIFTY TONS OF STEEL BALANCED OVER MY PENTHOUSE LIKE SOME SWORD OF DAMOCLES!
DON'T SIMPLY THINK OF IT AS A GLOBE... THINK OF IT AS A BEACON OF TRUTH... A SHINING LIGHT!
EVERYONE WHO SEES IT WILL THINK OF THE PLANET, AND OF YOU, OUR CAPTAIN, STEERING US ABLY TO SHORE!
HMMMM...

THIS LIGHT WILL BE SEEN EVERYWHERE-- AND WHEN IT'S SEEN, MORGAN EDGE, OUR FEARLESS PUBLISHER, WILL BE THOUGHT OF!
YOU KNOW SOMETHING, LANE...
THAT'S THE BIGGEST CROCK OF BULL I'VE EVER HEARD! STILL, YOU MIGHT HAVE A POINT...
THE PLANET'S CIRCULATION HAS BEEN DIPPING LATELY THIS COULD BE A GOOD PUBLICITY STUNT.
OKAY, YOU'VE GOT IT!
MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE SOME SORT OF CELEBRATION TO GO ALONG WITH IT.
YAHOOO!
YOU KNOW, MAYBE GET SUPERMAN, THE MAYOR...
AS USUAL, KENT, YOU THINK SMALL! FORGET THE MAYOR-- WE'LL GO RIGHT FOR THE PRESIDENT!
YES SIR-- I SEE IT NOW: SUPERMAN, REAGAN, AND ME!
I LIKE IT, I LIKE IT!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! HE'LL TURN THIS INTO A FARCE!
DON'T LET IT STEAM YOU, JIM! WE GOT WHAT WE WANTED--THE DAILY PLANET GLOBE IS BACK!
WELL, I FOR ONE, NEVER REALLY MISSED IT!
FIGURES, YOU SPOILSPORT! CLARK, THE BRIGHTEST SPOT IN YOUR LIFE IS THE DAY YOU WASH YOUR SOCKS!
DIDN'T MISS IT? SHEESH!

METROPOLIS PRISON: A SOMBER, STEEL CLAD REMINDER THAT NOT EVERYONE OBEYS THE LAW.
CASE IN POINT
TED'S IN HERE, THE CRUD! HE LEFT ME TO DIE!
WELL, HE FAILED!
BUT I'LL SUCCEED IN LEAVING HIM FOR DEAD!
WH-WHAT IN BLAZES IS THAT--?!
I'M SHOOTING WITH EVERYTHING I'VE GOT-- BUT NOTHING'S HAPPENING!
BLAM!
POW!
POW!
YOUR BULLETS MELT BEFORE THEY EVEN REACH ME, SCREWS!
NOW, OUTTA MY WAY! I HAVE BUSINESS HERE!
NEUTRON, THE HUMAN BOMB-- MEANS TO KILL!
KRAKAKAKAKAKA
HE STRIDES LIKE SOME INVULNERABLE GARGANTUA, AFRAID OF NOTHING THAT CROSSES HIS PATH.
AND, INDEED, THAT IS JUST WHAT HE IS!
WHERE ARE YOU, TEDDY? ANSWER ME! I'VE COME TO RETURN A FAVOR.
AH, THERE YOU ARE, MY ONE-TIME FRIEND! ARE YOU PLEASED TO SEE THE MAN YOU LEFT TO DIE?
WELL, EYE FOR AN EYE, I ALWAYS SAY!
THAT VOICE... NAT? IT C-CAN'T BE YOU!?!
9

ADVERTISEMENT

REDDY TORNADO™
in "CLEAN SWEEP"
A MYSTERIOUS VACUUM THIEF STRIKES NIGHTLY IN METROPOLIS, DEVOURING ITEMS OF INVALUABLE TASTE. NO FORCE TO DATE HAS BEEN ABLE TO STOP ITS SWIFT CLEAN-SWEEPING SUCTION.
IT'S A HARD ACT TO SWALLOW, REDDY. YOUR WHIRLWIND POWERS ARE THE ONLY MATCH FOR THIS HUNGRY VILLAIN.
MY COMPUTER BRAIN INFORMS ME WE MUST BAIT THE VACUUM VULTURE WITH SOMETHING DARK AND DELICIOUS.
LATER THAT EVENING...
AN INCREDIBLE READING. SOMETHING OF INCOMPARABLE TASTE IS NEAR AT HAND.
HOSTESS® CUP CAKES!
FUDGY ICING! DEEP, DARK, DELICIOUS CHOCOLATY CAKE! INVALUABLE TASTE!
I BELIEVE IT IS NOW TIME TO STIR UP TROUBLE IN THE VACUUM'S CONTROL CIRCUITS
REDDY, YOU'RE QUITE A HERO!
YOU ARE MISTAKEN, COMMISSIONER. THE HOSTESS CUP CAKES ARE THE REAL HERO.
YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN EVERY BITE OF HOSTESS® CUP CAKES
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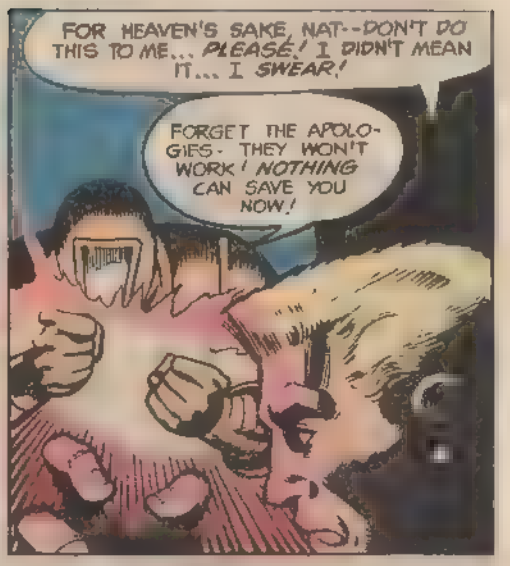
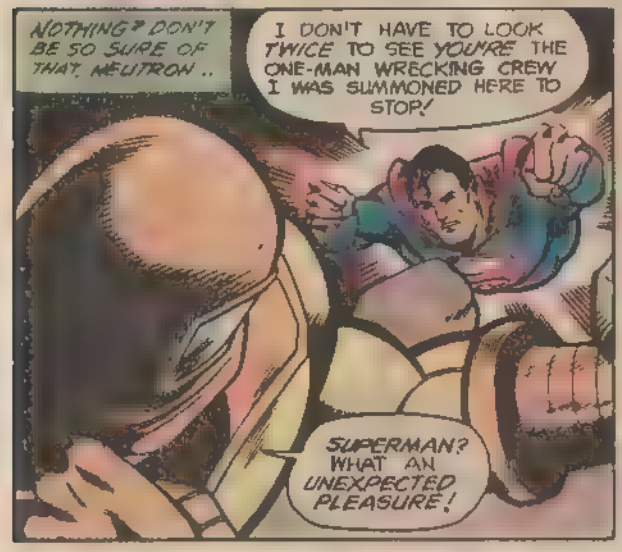
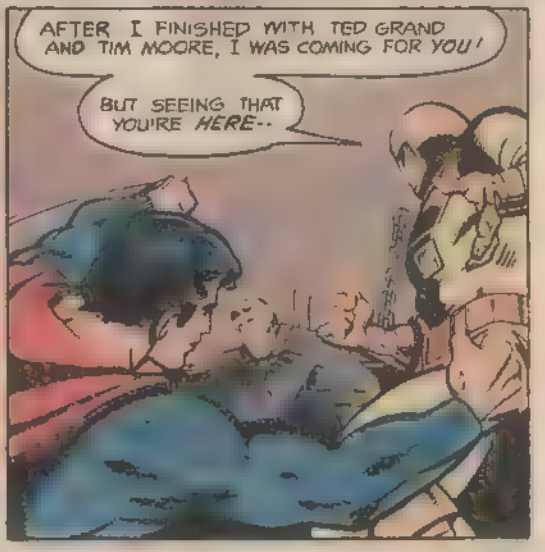
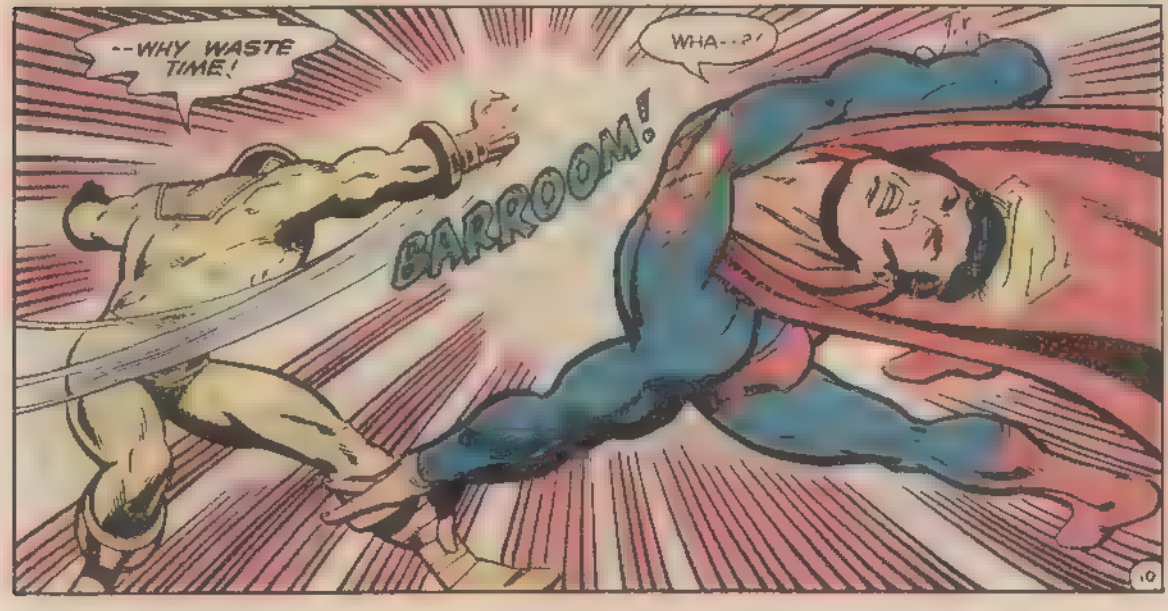
OH, BUT IT IS, MY FRIEND! OR WOULD YOU RATHER NOT RECALL THAT IT WAS YOUR GRENADE THAT SENT THAT LEAD-PLATE CRASHING DOWN ON ME?
YOU KNEW I WAS TRAPPED THERE, TED-- AND YOU LET ME DIE THERE...OR SO YOU THOUGHT!


FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, NAT--DON'T DO THIS TO ME... PLEASE! I DIDN'T MEAN IT... I SWEAR!
FORGET THE APOLOGIES - THEY WON'T WORK! NOTHING CAN SAVE YOU NOW!


NOTHING? DON'T BE SO SURE OF THAT, MEUTRON..
I DON'T HAVE TO LOOK TWICE TO SEE YOU'RE THE ONE-MAN WRECKING CREW I WAS SUMMONED HERE TO STOP!
SUPERMAN? WHAT AN UNEXPECTED PLEASURE!

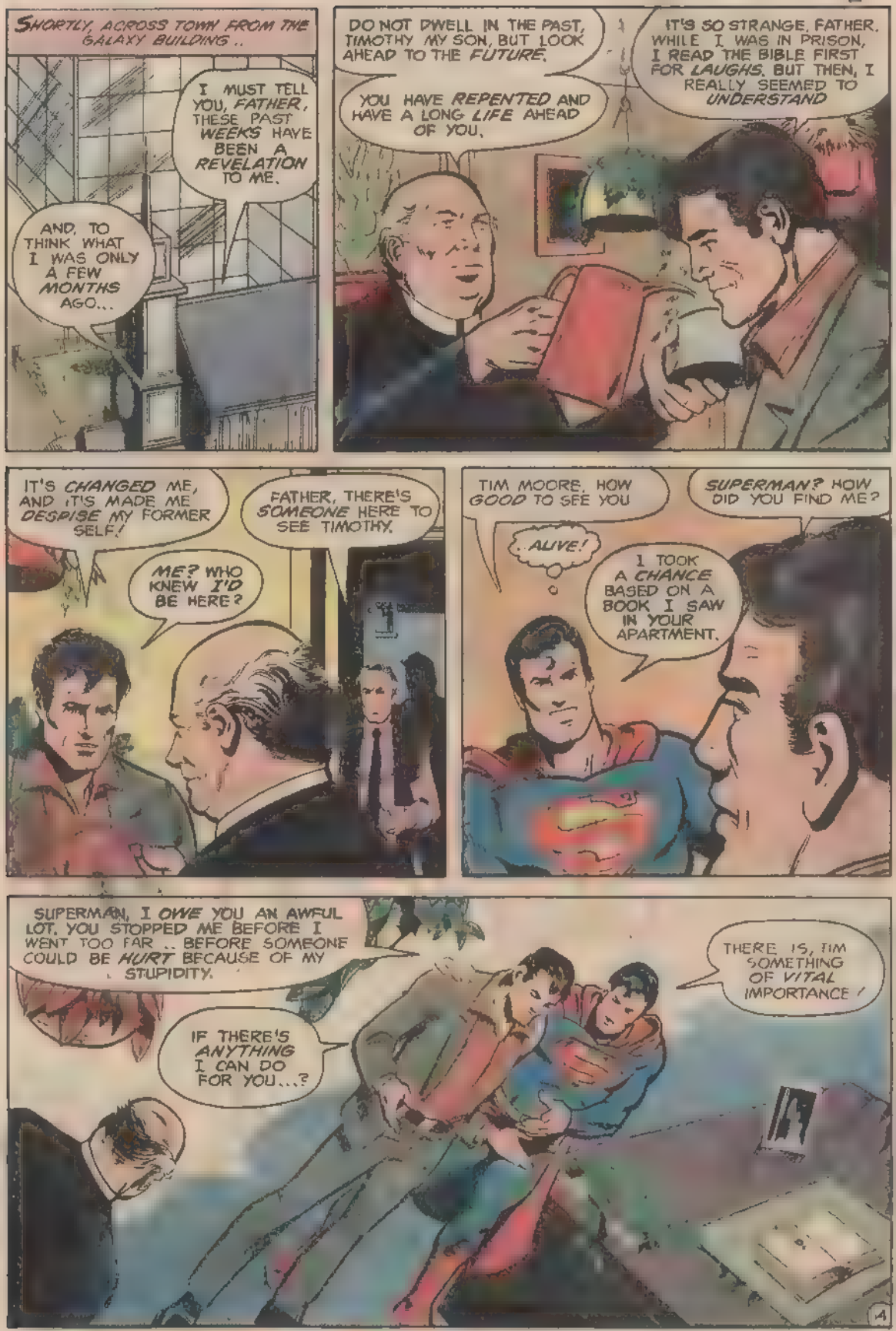

AFTER I FINISHED WITH TED GRAND AND TIM MOORE, I WAS COMING FOR YOU!
BUT SEEING THAT YOU'RE HERE--

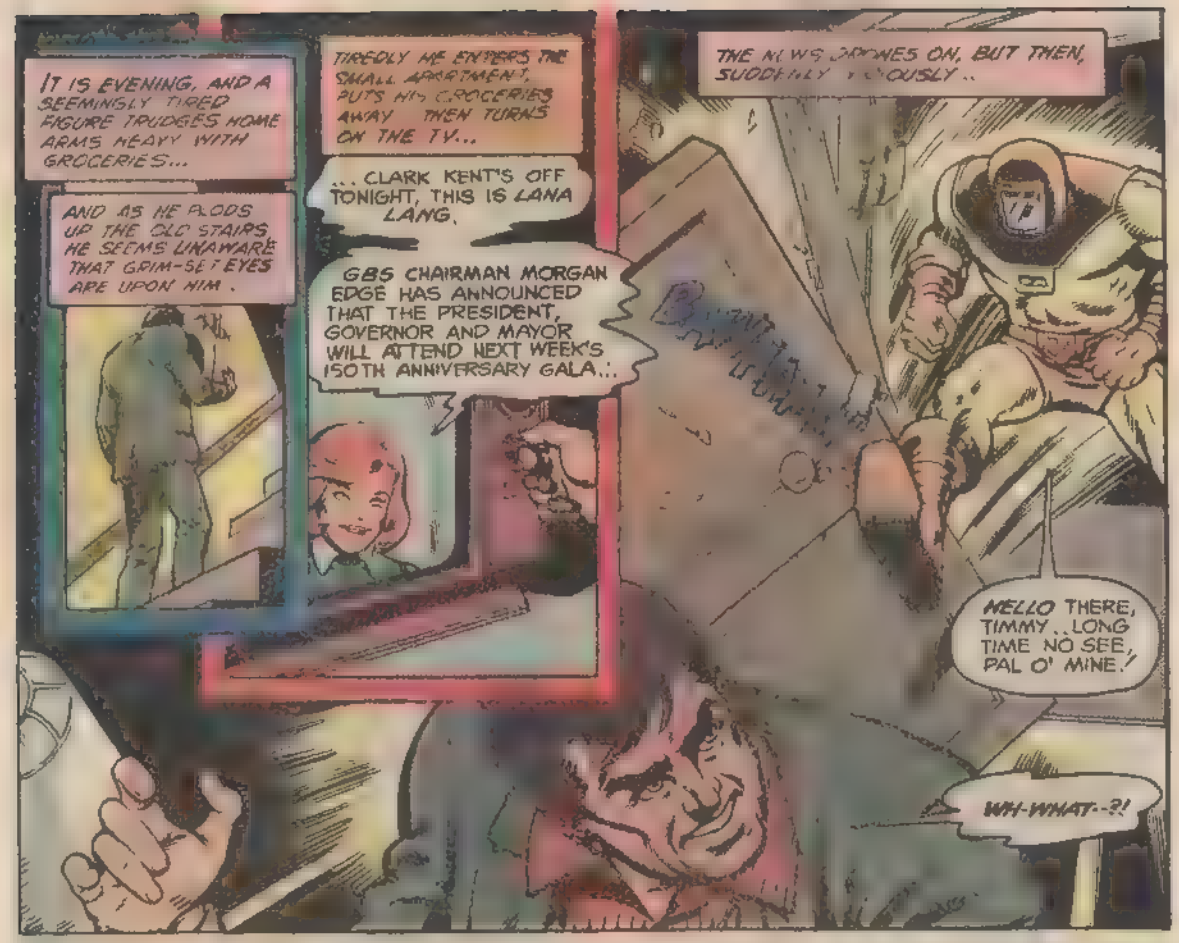

--WHY WASTE TIME!
WHA--?!
BARROOM!

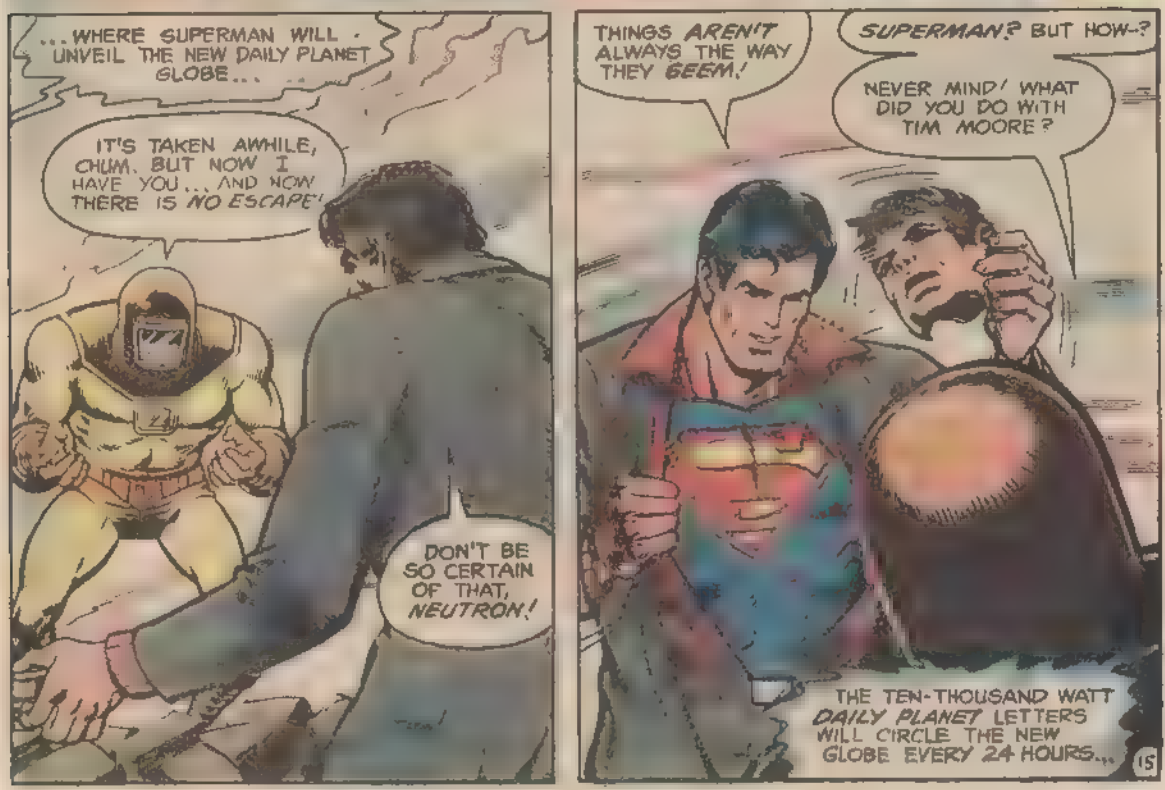
THE SUDDEN EXPLOSIVE FORCE AND FEROCITY OF NEUTRON'S NUCLEAR PUNCH SENDS SUPERMAN REELING IN SHOCK...
KRASH
BTAMM
BTAMM
BUT THIS IS A MAN OF STEEL AND FORTITUDE --AND IN AN INSTANT HE GATHERS HIS WITS ABOUT HIM...
AND RESUMES THE ATTACK.
I'VE BEEN CHANGED, SUPERMAN-- I'M A WALKING NEUTRON BOMB!
AND NOW, WHAT I WANT-- I GET!
AND I WANT-- DEATH!
I'M READY FOR HIM NOW--THE FORCE OF HIS EXPLOSION CAN'T HURT ME, SO WHY--?
WITHIN AN AGONIZING MOMENT, ALL BECOMES PAINFULLY CLEAR...
GREAT STONE SLAB BUILDINGS BLOW APART INTO MYRIAD DEADLY SHARDS..
GREAT KRYPTON!
KA-RUMMBLE!
TUMB
OOM!

INSTANTLY THE ACTION ACE HOVERS PAST THE TUMBLING STONES AT SPEEDS THAT DEFY COMPREHENSION..
... HIS HEAT VISION STABBING OUT HARD EVEN AS HE ROCKETS FORWARD
CAN'T LET A SINGLE LIFE BE LOST...
HE'S MELTING THE FALLING STONES..
MAKIN' THEM RAIN DOWN AS HARMLESS ASH!
SUPERMAN, THAT WAS THE MOST SENSATIONAL SAVE.!
SURE, WARDEN-- BUT NEUTRON ESCAPED... FLED WHILE I WAS KEPT BUSY.
NOW HOW ABOUT THAT CONVICT HE WAS ABOUT TO K.LL . ?
WARDEN! IT'S TED GRAND HE'S DEAD! IT'S LIKE A BOMB BLEW OUT HIS CELL, WITH HIM IN IT!
THEN, I FAILED--A LIFE WAS LOST! NEUTRON DID WHAT HE GET OUT TO DO!
BUT HE WON'T SUCCEED AGAIN. I SWEAR IT!
SUPERMAN-- WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
BUT THERE IS NO RESPONSE FROM THE MAN OF STEEL AS HE SPEEDS INTO THE DARKENING SKIES.
NEUTRON MENTIONED TED GRAND AND ANOTHER NAME--TIM MOORE! AT THE TIME, THE NAMES DIDN'T SINK IN...
...BUT THEY CERTAINLY DO NOW!
12

TED AND TIM-- TWO OF THE T.N.T. TRIO I ARRESTED A YEAR AGO IN THAT NUCLEAR DISASTER
TIM WAS PAROLED... A QUICK X-RAY SCAN GAVE THIS AS HIS CURRENT ADDRESS
IT'S CLEAR NOW THAT THE THIRD MEMBER OF THE T.N.T. TEAM WAS THERE ..THE ONE LEFT BEHIND.
ONE NOW OUT FOR HIS MISGUIDED VENGEANCE. ONLY--
TIM MOORE IS GONE! HAS NEUTRON ALREADY FOUND HIM?
OR--?
A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE METROPOLIS MARVEL SOARS INTO THE GALAXY BUILDING...
I-- I'M SORRY, MR. EDGE. BUT I CAN'T GET THE GLOBE LIFTED!
IT'S A SIGN, I TELL YOU! THE GLOBE WASN'T MEANT TO BE PUT BACK ON ITS PEDESTAL!
PLEASE, MR. EDGE, DON'T GIVE UP ON THIS! THE CEREMONY'S NEXT WEEK EVERYONE'S COMING!
HAVING A PROBLEM, MR. EDGE?
SUPERMAN! WHAT A BREAK! YOU'RE JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED!
AFTER A HURRIED EXPLANATION...
MY PLEASURE, FOLKS!
YOU NEEDN'T BOTHER, SUPERMAN!
OH, BUT I INSIST! I KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS TO YOU!
YEAH.. I'M SURE YOU DO!
13


SHORTLY, ACROSS TOWN FROM THE GALAXY BUILDING ..
I MUST TELL YOU, FATHER, THESE PAST WEEKS HAVE BEEN A REVELATION TO ME.
AND, TO THINK WHAT I WAS ONLY A FEW MONTHS AGO...
DO NOT DWELL IN THE PAST, TIMOTHY MY SON, BUT LOOK AHEAD TO THE FUTURE.
YOU HAVE REPENTED AND HAVE A LONG LIFE AHEAD OF YOU.
IT'S SO STRANGE, FATHER. WHILE I WAS IN PRISON, I READ THE BIBLE FIRST FOR LAUGHS. BUT THEN, I REALLY SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND
IT'S CHANGED ME, AND IT'S MADE ME DESPISE MY FORMER SELF!
FATHER, THERE'S SOMEONE HERE TO SEE TIMOTHY.
ME? WHO KNEW I'D BE HERE?
TIM MOORE. HOW GOOD TO SEE YOU
SUPERMAN? HOW DID YOU FIND ME?
. ALIVE!
I TOOK A CHANCE BASED ON A BOOK I SAW IN YOUR APARTMENT.
SUPERMAN, I OWE YOU AN AWFUL LOT. YOU STOPPED ME BEFORE I WENT TOO FAR .. BEFORE SOMEONE COULD BE HURT BECAUSE OF MY STUPIDITY.
IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU...?
THERE IS, TIM SOMETHING OF VITAL IMPORTANCE!
4


IT IS EVENING, AND A SEEMINGLY TIRED FIGURE TRUDGES HOME ARMS HEAVY WITH GROCERIES...
AND AS HE PLODS UP THE OLD STAIRS HE SEEMS UNAWARE THAT GRIM-SET EYES ARE UPON HIM.
WEARILY HE ENTERS THE SMALL APARTMENT, PUTS HIS GROCERIES AWAY THEN TURNS ON THE TV...
...CLARK KENT'S OFF TONIGHT, THIS IS LANA LANG.
GBS CHAIRMAN MORGAN EDGE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE PRESIDENT, GOVERNOR AND MAYOR WILL ATTEND NEXT WEEK'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY GALA...
THE NEWS DRONES ON, BUT THEN, SUDDENLY VIOUSLY..
HELLO THERE, TIMMY..LONG TIME NO SEE, PAL O' MINE!
WH-WHAT--?!


...WHERE SUPERMAN WILL UNVEIL THE NEW DAILY PLANET GLOBE...
IT'S TAKEN AWHILE, CHUM. BUT NOW I HAVE YOU...AND NOW THERE IS NO ESCAPE!
DON'T BE SO CERTAIN OF THAT, NEUTRON!
THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS THE WAY THEY SEEM!
SUPERMAN? BUT HOW--?
NEVER MIND! WHAT DID YOU DO WITH TIM MOORE?
THE TEN-THOUSAND WATT DAILY PLANET LETTERS WILL CIRCLE THE NEW GLOBE EVERY 24 HOURS...
15

TIM MOORE IS SAFE... AWAY FROM WHERE YOU CAN HURT HIM.
AND SINCE YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T KILL ME, WHY NOT GIVE UP? SAVE YOURSELF THE AGGRAVATION!
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING OF THE KIND, SUPERMAN!
I CAN KILL YOU! AND WHEN I FIND TIM-- HE'LL DIE AS WELL!
Chuck
YOU'RE STILL ALIVE?! BUT THERE'S ENOUGH POWER IN THESE FISTS TO LEVEL A CITY!
YOU MAY STAGGER ME, NEUTRON - EVEN KNOCK ME OFF BALANCE--
--BUT DESTROY ME? NEVER!
I WILL, SUPERMAN--
I SWEAR I WILL!
KRAKOOOM!
16

HE'S INCREDIBLY STRONG, I'LL GIVE HIM THAT AND THE LONGER OUR FIGHT CONTINUES--
THE MORE LIKELY SOMEONE INNOCENT WILL BE HURT THAT MEANS I'VE GOT TO WRAP THIS UP--FAST!
NOTHING YOU DO CAN POSSIBLY STOP ME, SUPERMAN! I'M LIKE A LIVING NUCLEAR REACTOR--
MY POWER INCREASING WITH EVERY PASSING SECOND!
SPA-BLAMM!
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME, SUPERMAN! ONLY A MATTER OF THE EXACT MOMENT MY POWER SURPASSES YOURS!
MAYBE I'M NOT QUITE READY YET... MAYBE MY POWERS MUST INCREASE A THOUSANDFOLD--
--BUT, THEY WILL, SUPERMAN! AND WHEN THEY DO--YOU'LL BE NOTHING MORE THAN A CHILD'S MEMORY!
CONDEMNED
KRASH!!!

SO, FOR NOW, ONLY A ROUND OF OUR FIGHT IS OVER.
I'LL FIND TIM MOORE--DESTROY HIM--AND THEN I'LL COME BACK AND RID THE WORLD OF YOU AS WELL!
BUT, FIRST, SUPERMAN--ANOTHER SMALL DEMONSTRATION--
--OF WHY NEUTRON WILL NEVER BE BEATEN!
KRAKA-BOOM!
SEEMINGLY, THERE IS A SUSPENSION OF TIME
AND THEN AS IF MAKING UP FOR LOST TIME, CHAOS REIGNS SUPREME
RUMMBLE
8

CONCLUDED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

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O	R	A	N	G	E	O	L	R	D	G	O
M	O	D	N	K	O	P	D	G	O	E	S
I	O	S	T	R	A	W	B	E	R	R	Y
N	T	K	N	P	O	D	E	S	L	I	L
T	B	C	S	O	P	M	O	A	P	N	R
C	E	P	O	R	M	Q	F	J	S	E	O
O	E	D	B	L	S	E	O	D	P	O	M
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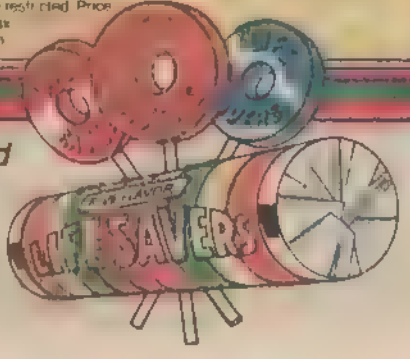

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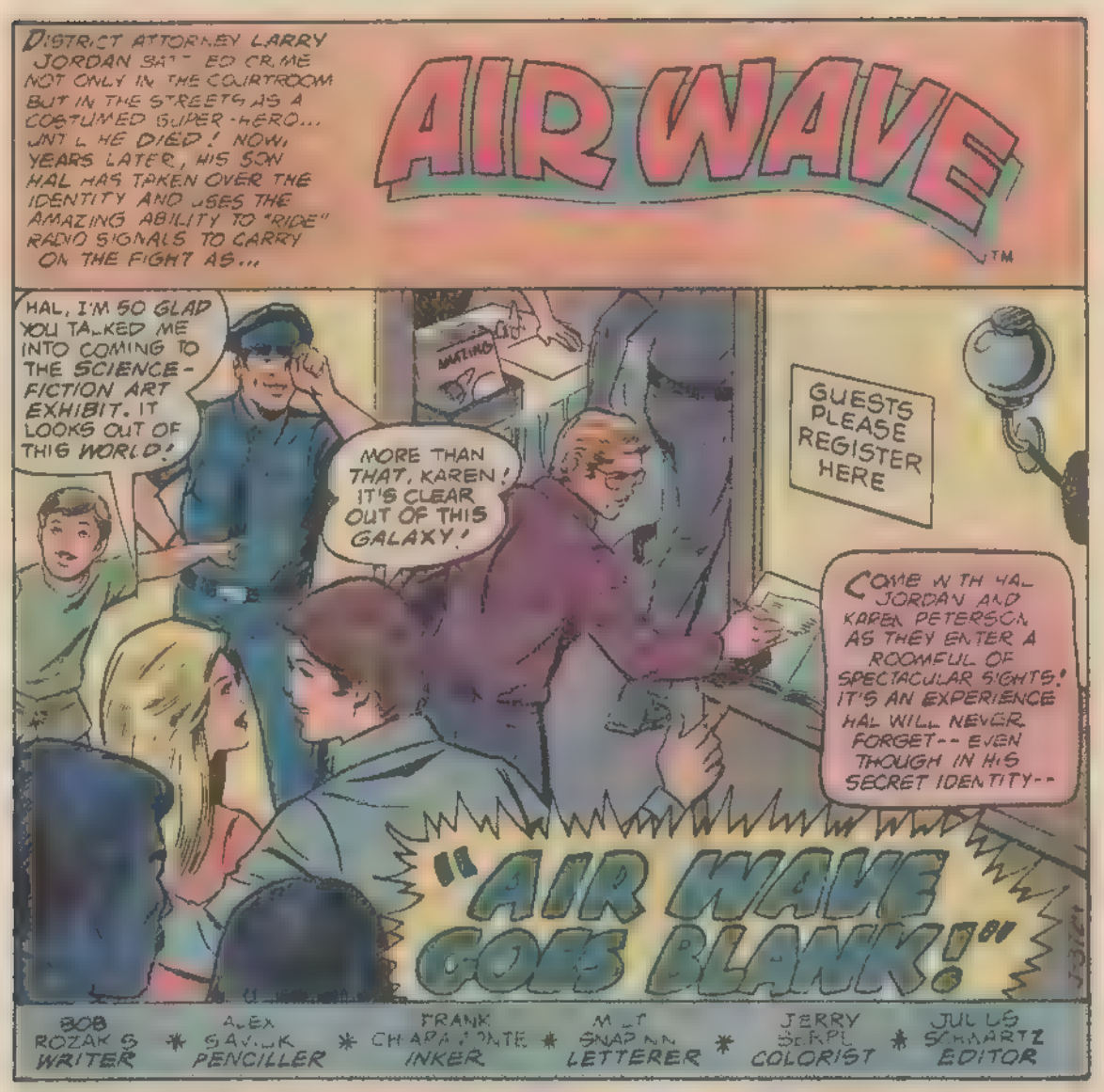
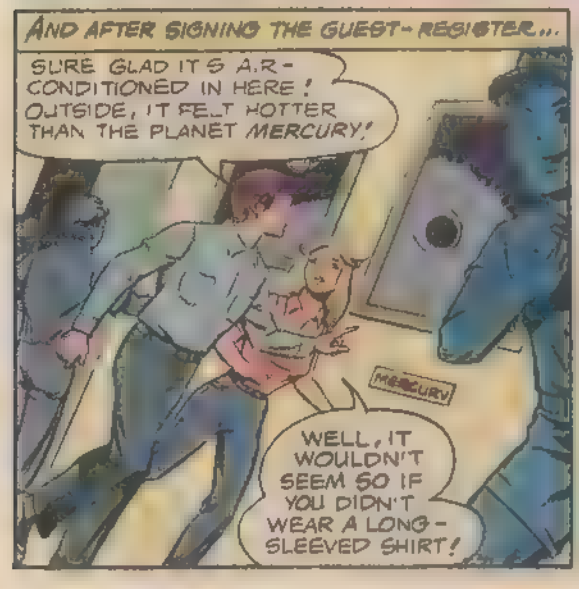
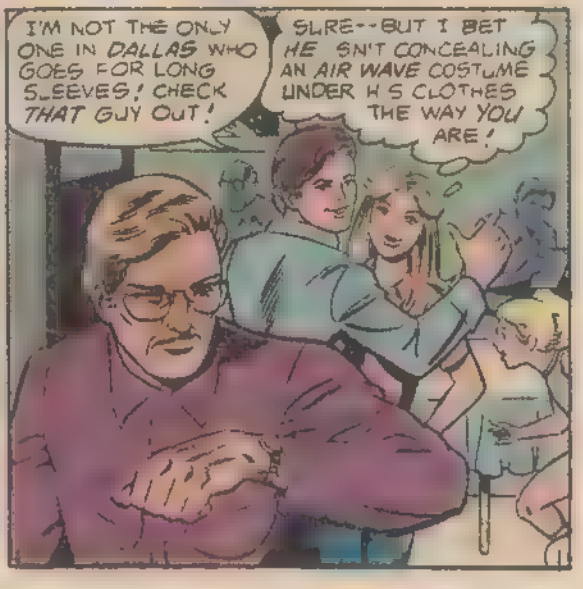
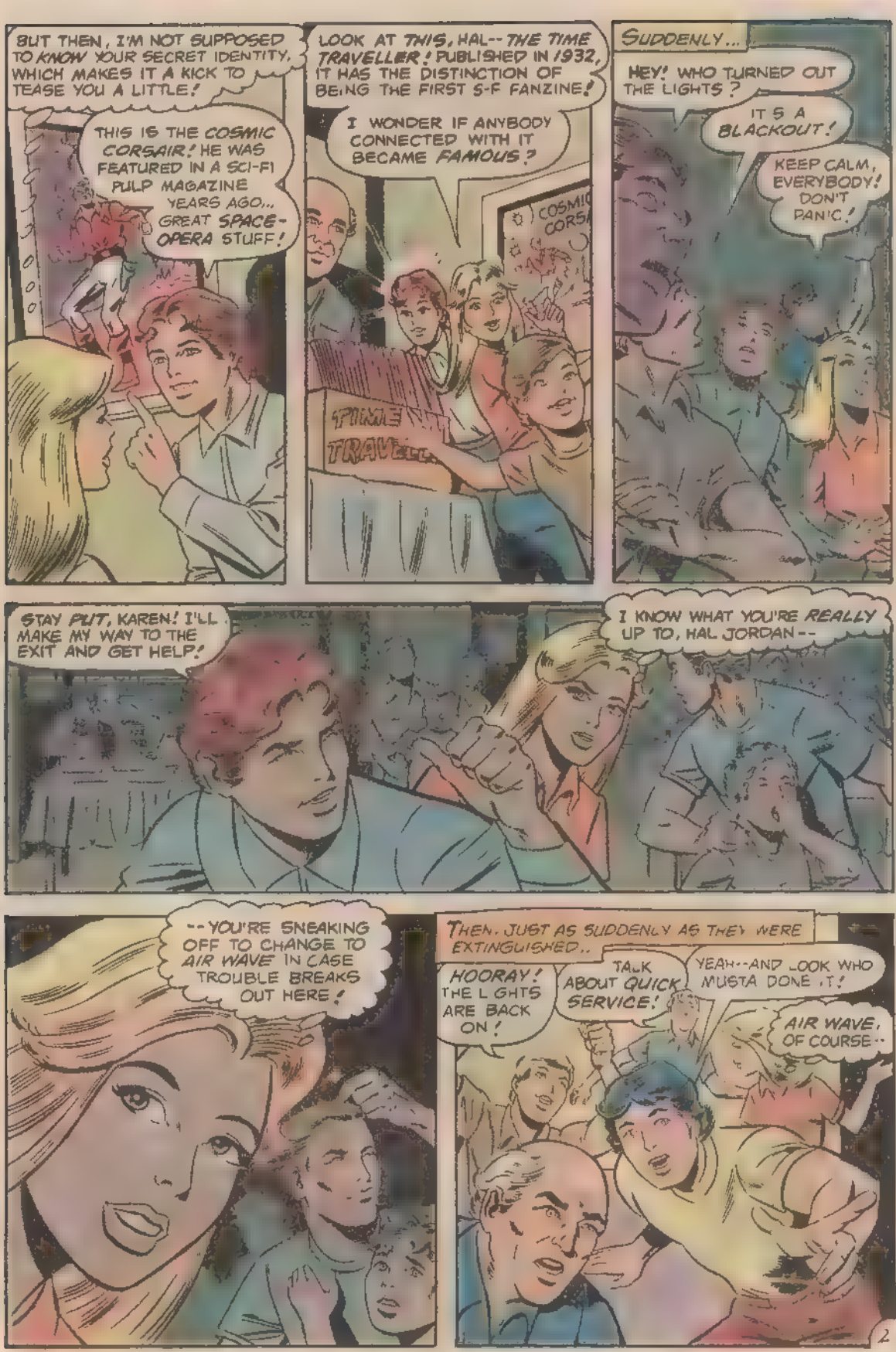
EPILOGUE

HE PACES THE LABORATORY OF HIS REBIRTH, ANGRY AND BROODING...
ALL MY POWER WAS IN THAT LAST PUNCH, AND ALL I COULD DO WAS STUN HIM.
BUT SOME DAY... SOME DAY SOON...
...THE DAILY PLANET'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY CONTINUES TO GROW.
BESIDES THE PRESIDENT, GOVERNOR, MAYOR, AND SUPERMAN, CELEBRITIES OF THE THEATER AND SPORTS WORLD WILL APPEAR...
...EACH OF WHOM WILL CONTRIBUTE $5,000 TOWARD THE DAILY PLANET FRESH AIR FUND FOR NEEDY CHILDREN.
WITHIN THESE FISTS IS AN ALMOST UNIMAGINABLE POWER--YET I'M STILL UNABLE TO MAKE SUPERMAN SUFFER FOR WHAT HE DID TO ME!
AND, AT EVENING'S END, SUPERMAN HIMSELF WILL UNVEIL THE NEW PLANET GLOBE
SURELY TOMORROW NIGHT WILL BE A NIGHT TO REMEMBER, LANA...
WAIT... THAT'S IT!
I CAN'T KILL SUPERMAN PHYSICALLY--BUT I CAN SHATTER HIM MENTALLY!
TOMORROW NIGHT--SUPERMAN WILL DESTROY METROPOLIS!
HA HA HA
...THANK YOU, CLARK. MORE GOOD NEWS FOR METROPOLIS CITIZENS COMING AFTER THIS BRIEF MESSAGE
HAS SUPERMAN FINALLY MET HIS MATCH? WILL NUCLEAR CHAOS DESTROY METROPOLIS? YOU MUST BE HERE FOR NEXT ISSUE'S... "THE MAN WHO MURDERED METROPOLIS" ON SALE SEPT 24! IT'S A DATE!


DISTRICT ATTORNEY LARRY JORDAN SAT ED CRIME NOT ONLY IN THE COURTROOM BUT IN THE STREETS AS A COSTUMED SUPER-HERO... UNTIL HE DIED! NOW, YEARS LATER, HIS SON HAL HAS TAKEN OVER THE IDENTITY AND USES THE AMAZING ABILITY TO "RIDE" RADIO SIGNALS TO CARRY ON THE FIGHT AS...
AIR WAVE
TM
HAL, I'M SO GLAD YOU TALKED ME INTO COMING TO THE SCIENCE-FICTION ART EXHIBIT. IT LOOKS OUT OF THIS WORLD!
MORE THAN THAT, KAREN! IT'S CLEAR OUT OF THIS GALAXY!
GUESTS PLEASE REGISTER HERE
COME WITH HAL JORDAN AND KAREN PETERSON AS THEY ENTER A ROOMFUL OF SPECTACULAR SIGHTS! IT'S AN EXPERIENCE HAL WILL NEVER FORGET -- EVEN THOUGH IN HIS SECRET IDENTITY--
"AIR WAVE GOES BLANK!"
BOB ROZAKIS WRITER
ALEX SAVIUK PENCILLER
FRANK CHIARAMONTE INKER
MIKE SNAPINN LETTERER
JERRY SERPE COLORIST
JULIUS SCHWARTZ EDITOR


AND AFTER SIGNING THE GUEST-REGISTER...
SURE GLAD IT'S A.R.-CONDITIONED IN HERE! OUTSIDE, IT FELT HOTTER THAN THE PLANET MERCURY!
MERCURY
WELL, IT WOULDN'T SEEM SO IF YOU DIDN'T WEAR A LONG-SLEEVED SHIRT!


I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE IN DALLAS WHO GOES FOR LONG SLEEVES! CHECK THAT GUY OUT!
SURE--BUT I BET HE ISN'T CONCEALING AN AIR WAVE COSTUME UNDER HIS CLOTHES THE WAY YOU ARE!


BUT THEN, I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO KNOW YOUR SECRET IDENTITY, WHICH MAKES IT A KICK TO TEASE YOU A LITTLE!
THIS IS THE COSMIC CORSAIR! HE WAS FEATURED IN A SCI-FI PULP MAGAZINE YEARS AGO.. GREAT SPACE-OPERA STUFF!
LOOK AT THIS, HAL-- THE TIME TRAVELLER! PUBLISHED IN 1932, IT HAS THE DISTINCTION OF BEING THE FIRST S-F FANZINE!
I WONDER IF ANYBODY CONNECTED WITH IT BECAME FAMOUS?
COSMIC CORS
TIME TRAVEL
SUDDENLY...
HEY! WHO TURNED OUT THE LIGHTS?
IT'S A BLACKOUT!
KEEP CALM, EVERYBODY! DON'T PANIC!
STAY PUT, KAREN! I'LL MAKE MY WAY TO THE EXIT AND GET HELP!
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE REALLY UP TO, HAL JORDAN--
--YOU'RE SNEAKING OFF TO CHANGE TO AIR WAVE IN CASE TROUBLE BREAKS OUT HERE!
THEN, JUST AS SUDDENLY AS THEY WERE EXTINGUISHED..
HOORAY! THE LIGHTS ARE BACK ON!
TALK ABOUT QUICK SERVICE!
YEAH--AND LOOK WHO MUSTA DONE IT!
AIR WAVE, OF COURSE..

HUNH?! WHY IT'S THE COSMIC CORSAIR!
WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?
IT MUST BE A GAG!
NOT A GAG-- BUT A GIG--
--TO STEAL THE MOST VALUABLE EXHIBITS HERE!
IF YOU'VE READ ABOUT ME, YOU KNOW ABOUT MY COSMIC-POWERED WEAPONS!
SO STAY BACK--
TAP TAP
--WHILE I HELP MYSELF TO THIS PRIZE PAINTING!
TIME FOR ME TO MAKE MY SURPRISE ENTRANCE--
--AND RUIN YOUR PLANS, CORSAIR!
IDIOT!
THE ONLY THING YOU RUINED IS THIS PAUL WESSO COVER-PAINTING!
SKRIT
3
IT WAS WORTH TEN GRAND!
"PROPERTY IS WORTHLESS IF YOU DESTROY IT WHILE TRYING TO SAVE IT." GREEN LANTERN TAUGHT ME!
I GET AN "F" ON THAT MANEUVER!

DON'T KNOW WHEN YOU'RE OUTCLASSED, HERO?
KEEP ON ATTACKING AND I'LL BLAST YOU W.TH MY COSMIC-STUNNER!
I WONDER WHY HE HASN'T USED IT YET--?
I BET YOU NEVER DREAMED WHEN YOU FLEW AT ME, YOU WERE HEADED FOR--
WAK!
--THE PLANET SATURN!
HE KNOCKED OUT AIR WAVE!
WE WON'T LET HIM GET AWAY WITH THAT--
--OR THE EXHIBITS!
I BETTER TAKE OFF--EMPTY-HANDED!
THAT WAS A NASTY CRACK YOU GOT! MAYBE YOU OUGHT TO SEE A DOCTOR--
NO... I'M... UHH.. OKAY...
GOT TO... GO AFTER HIM... STOP HIM...
GO GET HIM, AIR WAVE!
THANK GOODNESS HE SEEMS ALL RIGHT!

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BUT, MOMENTS LATER, TO KAREN'S DISMAY...
SO THE LIGHTS ARE BACK ON! ANYTHING HAPPEN WHILE I WAS GONE, KAREN?
UHH...STARTING TO GET A HEADACHE. MUST'VE BUMPED MY HEAD IN THE DARK...
OMIGOSH! HAL DRESSED IN SUCH A HURRY, HE DIDN'T BUTTON HIS SHIRT ALL THE WAY--!
HIS COSTUME'S SHOWING UNDERNEATH!
YOU MUST'VE FALLEN DOWN, TOO! YOUR CLOTHES ARE A MESS--
--YOU POPPED SOME OF YOUR BUTTONS! LET ME BUTTON YOU UP...
OH, THANKS...
HEADACHE'S GETTING WORSE! KAREN, YOU MIND IF WE GO HOME NOW?
WE HAVE A DATE TONIGHT...AND I BETTER GET SOME REST...
OF COURSE!
I WONDER IF THAT HIT ON THE HEAD CAUSED AMNESIA?
AMAZING STORIES OF OLD MAIDS
LATER...WHEN KAREN HAS LEFT HAL AT HOME...
FROM OUR SMALL TALK ON THE WAY BACK, I'M CONVINCED HAL'S MIND HAS GONE BLANK ABOUT HIS AIR WAVE IDENTITY!
I MAY HAVE TO GET HIM TO A DOCTOR--EVEN IF IT MEANS REVEALING HIS SECRET IDENTITY--
--UNLESS I CAN "CURE" HIM--ON MY OWN!

THAT EVENING, WHEN HAL CALLS ON KAREN.
COME ON N. HAL. THE DOOR S OPEN!
KAREN? WHAT'S W.TH THE LIGHTS OUT?
TURN THEM ON! I HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU!
GREAT STARS! WHO...WHY...YES... IT'S YOU--
CLICK
--THE COSMIC CORSAIR! GOT TO STOP YOU--!
HAL--WAIT! IT'S ME--KAREN!
I DIDN'T REALIZE MY ENTRY FOR THE S-F COSTUME PARADE WOULD AFFECT YOU THAT WAY!
HUNH--? WHAT AM I DOING HERE? I GOTTA GET GOING--
MY SCHEME WORKED!
SEEING ME IN THIS COSMIC CORSAIR COSTUME SHOCKED HAL INTO REGAINING HIS MEMORY!
HAL--WHAT ABOUT OUR DATE--?
SORRY KAREN-- I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT I HAVE TO DO!

SHORTLY, BACK IN HAL'S ROOM IN THE JORDAN HOUSE..
I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW I COULD HAVE FORGOTTEN WHY I WEAR THIS COSTUME UNDER MY CLOTHES--
--BUT THANKS TO KAREN, AIR WAVE RIDES THE RADIO WAVES AGAIN!
FIRST STOP--THE S-F ART SHOW...
...TO FIND OUT WHO THE COSMIC CORSAIR IS--
--AND WHERE TO FIND HIM!
THEN, TWO RADIO-WAVE RIDES LATER...
STILL BUGGED OVER AIR WAVE MESSING UP MY ART-SHOW ROBBERY--EH?
YOU'LL FEEL WORSE WHEN I TAKE YOU IN FOR ATTEMPTED ROBBERY, ANTHONY GILMORE--ALIAS THE COSMIC CORSAIR!
AIR WAVE--?! HOW'D YOU FIND OUT MY REAL IDENTITY?
THAT'S ONE OF THE SECRETS WE SUPER-HEROES KEEP TO OURSELVES!
"NEVER TELL YOUR FOE WHERE HE MADE HIS MISTAKE!"
LAST TIME WE FOUGHT, YOU SAW SATURN!
NOW YOU'LL SEE STARS--IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!
PLANNING TO USE YOUR COSMIC-STUNNER THIS TIME--?
WHY WASTE COSMIC POWER ON YOU--
--WHEN MUSCLE POWER WILL DO!
THAT'S MY CUE TO DEMATERIALIZE--

--RIDE THE AIR WAVES, POP UP BEHIND HIM--
--AND WRAP UP THIS CASE!
SKOKK
THEY SAY CLOTHES MAKE THE MAN--BUT A HYPED-UP COSTUME DOESN'T MAKE A SUPER-VILLAIN!
HE'S AS PHONEY AS HIS "COSMIC" WEAPONS!
DURING THE BLACKOUT, I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO LEFT THE ROOM--SO THE COSMIC CORSAIR CHANGED INTO COSTUME UNDER COVER OF THE DARKNESS HE CREATED!
AND SINCE HE WAS THE ONLY OTHER ONE WEARING A LONG-SLEEVED SHIRT TO CONCEAL A COSTUME--
--ALL I HAD TO DO TO "UNMASK" HIM WAS CHECK THE GUEST-BOOK FOR THE NAME AND ADDRESS ABOVE KAREN'S!
THE FOLLOWING NIGHT...
ALL SET FOR THE COSTUME PARADE, HAL--?
GREAT GUARDIANS! YOU'RE WEARING A GREEN LANTERN COSTUME?!
SURE--DON'T I LOOK GREAT IN IT?
C'MON, WHO'D EVER BELIEVE HAL JORDAN COULD BE GREEN LANTERN?
NEXT ISSUE: ANOTHER AIR WAVE SOLO ADVENTURE!

Dear Editor:

"Superman's Arch-Rival For Lois Lane" (*ACTION* #520) almost made me regret all the nasty things I've ever said about Gerry Conway! It reminded me of those old Mary Tyler Moore shows in which nothing really momentous happened, but afterward there was a nice feeling about it all.

I have great respect for the courage of an editor who allows such non-action stories to see print. Julie Schwartz has demonstrated this kind of bravery countless times and this story should definitely be among those in next year's *BEST OF THE YEAR* Digest Comic.

J.P. KELLY,
P.O. Box 24661,
Station C,
Vancouver, BC

With 24 Superman stories to do a year—not counting 12 DC PRESENTS team-ups, 12 Superboy stories, the Superman-related tales in SUPERMAN FAMILY and all the back-up stories in the magazines—Julie is always looking for new ways to "Be Original". But you'll only be able to enjoy it for another 20 years—Julie's announced he's retiring in the year 2001!—BR

• • •

Dear Julius Schwartz,

As you are aware, perhaps painfully, hardcore comics fans pay very little attention to *ACTION COMICS*.

Therefore, speaking as one, let me compliment you on the fine job in #520. Gerry Conway's script was quite good and the Curt Swan/Frank Chiaramonte art proper for the tale.

The Eric Burton character is a welcome addition to the *Superman* milieau, a character who can bug *Superman* without creating disasters himself. Great concept. Burton is obviously an over-achiever. Competition is the key to his motivation; he wouldn't have wanted Lois if she wasn't *Superman*'s girl. (I can hardly wait to meet his brother!)

But please don't convert Eric Burton into a super-villain. It should not be his style. (A rival super-hero, perhaps, but who needs another?) With the sophisticated computers at his disposal, he should be able to uncover *Superman*'s secret identity and a crusade to prove it would seem right up his alley. (Perhaps he would expose Clark in front of Lois only!)

HOWARD LEROY DAVIS,
38 Simpson Avenue,
Pitman, NJ 08071

• • •

Dear Editor:

So the Vandal Savage two-parter is in the running for Best Story of 1981? Not any more, because "Superman's Arch-Rival For Lois Lane" just kicked it downstairs. I defy anyone to not like this one—this lovely, touching change of pace that benefitted from its short cast of characters and the change away from the Galaxy newsroom, the reasonably plotted story, *Superman*'s "foe" having a harmless motive and meeting him on a heretofore unexplored battleground, and especially page 9, panel 1. (Hooboy, my eyeballs are melting!)

Eric Burton's attempted exploitation of Superman's desire to help people, of course, was doomed to failure. In not just *Superman*, but in all of us, compassion is the byword before you cross the line into the phrase "human being". Learning the difference between "selfless" and "selfish" requires more than spelling lessons.

CHARLES D. BROWN,
39 Stockton Street,
Brentwood, NY 11717

The Superman story seems to have struck a responsive chord all around, Charles. Witness our next letter.—BR

• • •

Dear Editor:

I'm not really a big *Superman* fan, but I've been buying *ACTION* the past few months because of your back-up series featuring *Aquaman*. #520's "The End" epitomized the fine handling of *Aquaman* your creative team has displayed throughout his appearances in *ACTION*. Despite the handicap of only 8 pages, you have been successful in developing a plot that is full of action (no pun intended), but also leaves room for powerful characterization as noted in the recent adventures of *Aquaman* with his father, mother and brother.

But my biggest surprise of the issue was the *Superman* story. This was the first story I had come across in several years (granted, I am not a regular reader) that portrayed *Superman* as a real person. I have always wondered how, with all the crises he is called upon to solve, he can maintain meaningful relationships with Lois Lane and others. It was also very refreshing to see an adversary for once that wasn't from outer space or super-powered. We were treated to a tale of rivalry between the man from Krypton and a little more than ordinary man from Earth. It was a rivalry where *Superman*'s awesome powers weren't the key to his success and he struggled with the same problems we mortals do.

I might also add in closing that Lois Lane was handled superbly. No longer do we see a helpless woman waiting to be rescued by *Superman*. More stories like this and I *will* be a regular reader.

R. CASEY LARTZ,
6041 Village Bend Drive,
Apt. 804,
Dallas, TX 75206

We hope you've become a regular-enough reader to see your letter in this issue, Casey. And since you live in Dallas, what do you think of our Texas-based ACTION-plusser, Air Wave?—BR

• • •

Dear Editor:

"The End" was really an explosive ending of the current *Aquaman* plot which started out in *WORLD'S FINEST*. Father and son against mother and brother was a novel idea that was given extra twists due to the exact nature of the combatants. J.M. DeMatteis' excellence as a writer was displayed by the intricate plot which he devised for this series. He laid all the groundwork carefully, but the eight-page conclusion was too short since most of it was action and we really didn't have time to understand the family relationships.

I agree that a home should be found for *Air Wave* and *The Atom*, but not at the cost of *Aquaman*. He deserves a place to grow and develop in sagas such as these.

KENT A. PHENIS
1082 Sherwood Court #803
Greenwood, IN 46142

Much as I enjoyed "The End", I'm glad it was just that...the end! I like *Aquaman*, but following this series from *WORLD'S FINEST* into the pages of *ACTION* for what seems like years was too much. How about limiting your continued stories to two or three issues at most? I like to be able to remember what happened in the previous chapter or two without having to dig through my collection to re-read the last six issues!

DANNY GOLDING
8982 Islesworth Court
Bay Hill
Orlando, FL 32811

As you've seen in recent issues, our rotating "A" heroes in the back-up slot limit the length of the "sagas", but we'll still do our best to develop characterization and combine it with top-notch action!—Bob Rozakis

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